red eye

Friday
AUGUST 12, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune publication

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GET MORE BOOZE FOR YOUR BUCK WITH A BIG SHAREABLE COCKTAIL AT ONE OF THESE CHICAGO BARS *10-11*

Meet some unsung Rio heroes *6*

Have you been to The Violet Hour yet? *16*

Bud Billiken Parade and more fests *20*

Bartender's Whim shared cocktail at Drumbar

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

BURGERS WITH BENNETT TRAMER

Saved By The Max
1941 W. North Ave. 773-687-9824

Have a burger, fries and soft drink while watching an episode of "Saved by the Bell" with the show's Emmy-nominated producer and former head writer, who will share behind-the-scenes stories and answer questions. 1-3 p.m. Friday. $25. RSVP: **savedbythemax.com**

DRINK

PILSEN NEIGHBORHOOD IMMERSION

NYCH Gallery *643 W. 18th St. 718-486-7422*

Check in at a pop-up bar and shop created through a collaboration between Brooklyn Brewery and Timberland and you'll get a booklet of coupons that includes beer vouchers, lunch at Pl-zen, Café Jumping Bean or Dusek's, and buy one, get one free coffee at Bow Truss Coffee Roasters. Noon Sunday. $15. Tickets: **brooklynbrewerymash.com**

NOW OPEN » *Disco* *111 W. Hubbard St.*

Bonhomme Hospitality Group (Fulton Market Kitchen) and Cerberus Group (Celeste) teamed up on this late-night '70s-themed dance spot with a variety of cocktails ($13) and bottle service offerings ($400). 11 p.m.-4 a.m. Friday and 11 p.m.-5 a.m. Saturday. No cover.

DO

BIT BASH

Revel Fulton Market
1215 W. Fulton St.

Try more than 50 indie video games at the third annual fest, which also features food trucks, music performances and art installations. 2-10 p.m. Saturday. $25-$30. Tickets: **bitbashchicago.com**

FREE

PEACEBOOK

Hamilton Park
513 W. 72nd St. 312-226-9633

Collaboraction Theatre Company's festival features free dinner from Connie's Pizza, artist-led group activities and a performance of seven world-premiere peace-themed dance, theater and spoken word pieces. 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

3-DAY FORECAST

FRIDAY
85 75
Hot & stormy

SATURDAY
83 72
Gettin' cooler

SUNDAY
80 70
Pretty nice

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY Fremont (15 W. Illinois St. 312-874-7270) offers $6 Absolut vodka cocktails from 4-7 p.m. Friday.

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GROWING GREEN

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATED UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY SET TO EXPAND

Jessica Ryan trims marijuana plants at Cresco Labs in Joliet. STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

By Robert McCoppin | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In a warehouse in Joliet, hundreds of marijuana plants sway under high-intensity lights, taking in carbon dioxide-rich air, sucking up a constant feed of nutrients and bristling with buds.

Tiny predator bugs patrol the surface of the vegetation, hunting down any pests. Workers prune stems and leaves to put all the plants' energy into buds that produce the drug's euphoric and medicinal effects. The process churns out 200 pounds of high-grade pot every month.

The grow house at Cresco Labs is one of 19 cultivation centers in Illinois authorized by the state to produce medical cannabis. The struggling medical marijuana industry in Illinois is poised to grow. Last month, for the first time, the state added two new medical conditions—post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness—to the list of about 40 that qualify patients to buy the drug.

Lawmakers also changed the statute to allow physicians to certify patients as having a qualifying medical condition without having to risk their licenses by vouching for the drug's medical benefits. And in court, recent rulings are forcing state officials to reconsider adding other new conditions such as migraine headaches and chronic post-operative pain.

Though Illinois has one of the most restrictive programs in the nation with only 9,000 patients, they spent about $3 million on the drug last month. Industry leaders are hopeful that expanded access will translate into more patients and a more sustainable program.

Charles Bachtell, founder and CEO of Cresco Labs, said a consultant estimates there will be more than 100,000 patients in Illinois, comparable to Colorado's medical cannabis population, by Year 3 of the pilot program that began in November.

"The program is seeing significant growth month to month," Bachtell said. "It's changed patients' lives. There's a great energy out there."

Jack Campbell, a former police officer who is the new director of the state medical cannabis program, said there have been no major criminal incidents associated with the program, such as theft of medical marijuana or sales to people who aren't certified.

Because of the state's harsh winters and the law's security requirements, almost all the medical marijuana grown in Illinois comes from warehouses. Besides Joliet, Cresco owns growing facilities in Kankakee and Lincoln.

The Joliet facility has 144 security cameras monitoring its 40,000 square feet, with a feed to Illinois State Police. Every plant is tagged with an identification number to track it from seedling to sale.

All the plants begin in the Mother Room, where about three dozen strains are chosen for their potency and growing ability. Stems are cut from the female plants to propagate clones.

As the seedlings grow, they are moved into different rooms to provide optimal conditions for each stage of life. At first they are vegetative, growing like a bush, but eventually they begin to flower, growing thick clusters of buds. The stems and leaves have relatively few active components and are chopped up and thrown away.

Buds are cut off, dried for a couple of weeks, then either processed into dry flower used for smoking or distilled into an oil, which can be vaporized in electronic pens or infused into chocolates, tinctures, lotions and solid wax.

Thirty-five people work at the warehouse, tending the plants, processing them and baking them into deserts designed by acclaimed chef Mindy Segal.

A bank-style vault holds the finished products until they are released for sale. The whole process takes about six months. Every two weeks, workers start the procedure all over.

Drivers deliver the products in locked boxes to any of 40 state-authorized dispensaries. Each time, workers at the retail stores must call Cresco to get a special code to open each box.

"THE PROGRAM IS SEEING SIGNIFICANT GROWTH MONTH TO MONTH. IT'S CHANGED PATIENTS' LIVES. THERE'S A GREAT ENERGY OUT THERE."

—**Charles Bachtell**, founder and CEO of Cresco Labs, an Illinois medical cannabis company

Potency is generally measured in terms of the percentage of THC, the component that gets users high, and CBD, which studies have shown may help reduce seizures and muscle spasticity.

By state law, independent labs must test samples of all marijuana sold in the state to verify potency and freedom from pesticides, molds or other contaminants.

The man directing cultivation for Cresco is 35-year-old Jason Nelson, who has degrees in horticulture and agronomy. He has worked in the industry in Colorado and Washington.

Despite the risk of working in a federally illicit industry, Nelson said it's satisfying hearing from patients with serious illnesses who've been helped to relieve pain or other symptoms.

"That's more than enough of an inspiration for me," he said. "It's very satisfying."

GETTY IMAGES

I have the hots for my sister's BF

Anna Pulley
▪ @annapulley
▪ redeye@redeyechicago.com

Dear Anna,
My sister has been dating a guy for about six months. He's great, attractive, caring, opens doors for people and is an all-around respectful person. I get along with him, and I see him a lot because my sister brings him around. Sometimes I find myself fantasizing about what it would be like to kiss him. Is it wrong to think about these things? My sister and I aren't that close, but I would never want to hurt her. —*Sibling Rivalry*

Dear SR,
It's not "wrong" to think or fantasize about someone you like and find attractive and who happens to be off-limits to you. In fact, attraction to such people happens a lot more than we admit or would like. Just think of all those "He left me for my best friend!" storylines, or every single episode of "The Jerry Springer Show." Think about inappropriate relationships between bosses and secretaries. Married people having affairs with other married people. Professors banging their students. The fact that we can't have them only makes them more alluring to us.

It's psychology, specifically the law of scarcity. When something is unavailable or scarce, we perceive it to be more exciting and, hence, more valuable.

And it also makes a certain sense that you would develop a crush on your sister's boyfriend, because if someone is around you a lot, and you're fond of them, those feelings can easily translate to sexual attraction.

It becomes wrong if you decide to act on those feelings, if you try to sabotage your sister's relationship in any way or if your attraction to him is interfering with your own life—for instance, if you stop going on dates with people because you're waiting for this dude.

Are any of those scenarios likely or worrisome to you, SR? If so, then I'd take a step back from hanging out with this guy and double your efforts to find someone with similar qualities, but who is not, you know, dating someone who shares your DNA.

Crushing is fine and fantasizing can be innocent, but keep an eye on it and don't let yourself get carried away.

Most of all, don't let a dude damage your relationship with your sister, or your own integrity.

To put it in a more rhyme-y way: Check yo'self before you wreck yo'self.

Or, oh: Sisters before misters!

If such a catchy and easy-to-remember slogan can't convince you not to bang your sister's mister, I don't know what will.*

**Maybe siblings before nibblings? Sisses before kisses? Fam before wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am? The options are many, and so are your dating prospects.*

ANNA PULLEY IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. WANT TO ASK ANNA A QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEYEDATING@GMAIL.COM.

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RIO 2016
olympics
DAY 6 ROUNDUP

Rakers prep the sand between sets at the beach volleyball arena in Rio on Wednesday.
BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

Champions in the raking

THEY'RE VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE, BUT BEACH VOLLEYBALL WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT THEM

By Chris Hine | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At a break in the action, the six march to the sideline with rakes at the ready.

They pause for a moment, to be sure they'll be in unison. Then they get to work.

Music is blasting in the arena, the crowd is cheering and the players are getting a breather. Meanwhile, the six have 25-30 seconds to go through their carefully choreographed steps to smooth the sand of what are now the most famous beach volleyball courts in the world.

They are the rakers of the Olympic beach volleyball tournament at Copacabana, and without their attention to detail, the world's best players would not have an idyllic playing surface. That would mean exposure to injuries and make it tougher for officials to determine if balls are in or out.

Three work each side of the net, each with a specific area to sweep. Two around the net, two by the baseline and two in between. They can't walk over areas they have swept, or else the job is ruined.

They are among Rio's many unsung heroes, who ensure that Olympic events go off without a hitch.

"I consider myself a lucky guy to be in an event like this, doing this job," Valdeir Vieira, one of the rakers, said through a translator. "It's an important thing we do to prepare the courts to avoid problems with the players and help the referees."

There are 35 of them at the beach volleyball venue. All have had experience at smaller events around Brazil. Before the Olympics, they trained for a week with Olympic officials and honed their raking abilities in scrimmages prior to pool play.

Their responsibilities include more than just raking the sand on the main court. They also must manicure the four practice courts and help to clean the sand after each day, which involves digging the sand up to 50 centimeters deep and sifting it to make sure it is free of large particles.

"This preparation of the court is very important for the players," said Fernando Marques, the competition manager for beach volleyball. "They think this is the most important thing regarding these preparations, to keep the area in the best condition for the players and for the others."

They are also responsible for smoothing the sand along the lines, which makes it easier to see where a ball lands. "If the sand is not exactly leveled, it could be a little bit confusing if it's a hole of the sand or a hole caused by the ball," Marques said.

Replay challenges have helped ease the burden for the rakers, but it makes the match go smoother if referees can make the correct call without replay.

The rakers are more than just rakers. Vieira, 24, is studying information technology in college, while another raker, Josue Souza, 18, is studying business administration.

"All of the rakers know each other," Souza said through a translator. "We are a group. Most are friends. We think this is very important to keep the performance of the players without any problems."

They are close to the best volleyball players in the world, something both Vieira and Souza said was a privilege, but they are not there to ask for autographs. Their interaction is limited to asking players if the sand is to their liking.

"As far as going underneath the net and getting it smoothed out—we mess it up pretty quickly—so we certainly appreciate what they do for us," U.S. player Brooke Sweat said. "You step in a divot or a hole you're not expecting to be there and it can throw off your timing or your approach."

The rakers will come out a few times during a set. Once they are done grooming the sand, they meet at the opposite end of the net from where they started, like soldiers getting back in formation. They pause for a moment, then they dart off to the sides, becoming invisible again until the next timeout or set break.

Simone Biles performs her floor routine on her way to a gold medal in the women's all-around final on Thursday. BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

All hail gymnastics' all-around queen and fear the armbar

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

American women kicked you-know-what on Day 6 of the Rio Olympics, with two topping the medal stand and the water polo team continuing to sink its competition. And fans are bound to fall in love with a Puerto Rican tennis player, if they haven't already. Here's the best and worst of Day 6 in Rio and what you should be watching the next three days.

WE LOVED IT WHEN ...

Simone Biles ruled the all-around. Biles took gold in the all-around, making her the fourth-straight American to reign in gymnastics' premier individual event. Teammate Aly Raisman made her earn it, however, claiming the silver with a score two points below Biles'. Raisman finished just off the podium in this event in 2012, so hopefully her medal feels more sweet than bitter. As for Biles, the whole world is running out of superlatives for this phenom, and she still could win three more golds in the individual events. Wow.

Kayla Harrison saved her best for last. She became the first American to win two gold medals in judo in the 78kg class, using a devastating armbar to win both her semifinal and final matches. As someone who's been in one, trust me when I say it's not something you want to have applied to your arm. Harrison's victory was as dramatic as they come; she forced the tapout from her opponent in the waning seconds of the bout. How cool would it be to see her follow up this success with a career in the UFC Octagon? Answer: Pretty darn cool.

The USA's Kayla Harrison (left) and France's Audrey Tcheumeo GETTY IMAGES

WE HATED IT WHEN ...

Bullets were shot into the equestrian center. Although reports of violence surrounding the Olympics have been relatively low considering the hysteria leading up to the games, it's disturbing to learn two stray bullets have found their way into the equestrian center. Same goes for the bullet that struck a media tent earlier this week. Here's hoping this is as close as it gets to anyone getting hurt, or worse.

The nightmares about polluted waters might be coming true. According to The Associated Press, Belgian sailor Evi Van Acker's coach said the athlete contracted a severe intestinal infection while training in Rio in July. Her poor performances thus far have put her medal hopes in jeopardy; she won bronze in 2012.

WORD OF THE DAY
#PicaPower

Puerto Rican tennis player Monica Puig has been tearing through the women's singles draw. Despite being unseeded, the 22-year-old has reached the semifinals, a run that has included a win over French Open champion Garbine Muguruza. Puig immediately broke down in tears when she won her quarter-final match; she is guaranteed to play for a medal now, and Puerto Rico has never had an Olympic gold. #PicaPower refers to her coach's advice that she must "break stones" to be successful, according to Univision. (In Spanish, picar means to chop or to break up.) On Friday, she faces Petra Kvitova in the semifinals. Did we mention she has a dog named Rio? Do yourself a favor and follow her on Twitter at **@MonicaAce93** while you're at it. (Competition begins at 10 a.m. Friday)

@REDEYESPORTSCHI | CHSOSA@REDEYECHICAGO.COM
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES CONTRIBUTED.

WATCH THIS

The best of the Olympics this weekend

FRIDAY
Shooting

Kim Rhode tries to become the first American, the first female athlete and the first Summer Olympian to win an individual medal in six straight Olympics when she competes in skeet shooting. She has three golds, a silver and a bronze to her name. No matter how you feel about the Second Amendment, that accomplishment would be monumental. (1 p.m.)

Archery

Robin Hood and Katniss Everdeen are probably better archers to call on if you need to, say, rebel against a tyrant. But Brady Ellison and Zach Garrett should be in medal contention for the U.S. (1 p.m.)

Swimming

Katie Ledecky competes against, well, herself in the 800-meter freestyle. The only question really is whether she breaks her world record, but it will be fun to watch her try regardless. Ditto for Missy Franklin in the 200 backstroke, though the field is much more competitive in that event. (8 p.m.)

SATURDAY
Fencing

With a couple of individual medals in hand for Team USA, Ibtihaj Muhammad, Mariel Zagunis and Dagmara Wozniak will try to bring home a team sabre gold for the United States. If nothing else, watching this sport is bound to sharpen your eyesight when zeroing in on all the blade-on-blade action. (3 p.m.)

Track and field

Early in the day (7:30 a.m.), Usain Bolt races for the first time in heats for the 100 meters. Later, we find out who is the world's fastest woman. (6 p.m.)

Swimming

As always, the final day of swimming concludes with the men's 4x100-meter medley relay. It also might mean the final Olympic event for Michael Phelps. Though as we've no doubt learned by now, it'd be foolish to make that assumption. (8 p.m.)

SUNDAY
Track and field

Chicago resident Chirine Njeim, competing for Lebanon, aims for a medal in the marathon. She joins an elite club of athletes who will have competed in the Winter and Summer Games; Njeim also is an accomplished alpine skier. (7:30 a.m.)

Gymnastics

Can Simone Biles win yet another gold, this time in the vault competition? We wouldn't bet against it, if we were you. (noon)

Track and field

It seems fitting to end the weekend with one of the Olympics' glamour events, the men's 100 meters. Usain Bolt is the favorite, of course, but U.S. runner Justin Gatlin will do his darnedest to unseat him. Good luck. (6:20 p.m.)

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GETTY IMAGES

DeAndre Jordan, you are no Delle Donne

By Phil Thompson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DeAndre Jordan said he dreams of having the basketball range of Elena Delle Donne, but Jimmy Butler let him know that it is a dream—a pipe dream.

"You don't got her type of game," Butler told his U.S. Olympic teammate in a video the NBA tweeted of their discussion about which women's team players they'd like to emulate.

"I want to be like that," Jordan said.

"But you don't fit her game at all," Butler told the Clippers big man. "No."

"I could try," Jordan said.

"I could actually be Sue [Bird, No. 2 on the WNBA's all-time assists list]," Butler said while imitating a couple of Bird's trademark passes.

Jordan looked at Butler skeptically. "But you don't pass."

"I do pass," Butler shot back. "I'm just not used to throwing lobs. But I pass."

Jordan was undeterred. "I could be like Elena, she's got to teach me some of the moves."

Butler told him to settle on fellow post player Brittney Griner and said "you don't got no crossover." That's when Jordan playfully got up and left. "I don't want to be here anymore," Jordan said as Butler laughed.

If (or more likely, when) the men's team wins gold, these two amateur comedians should do the late-night circuit, starting with Stephen Colbert.

On a more serious note, Kyrie Irving praised the women's game for its fundamentals. "I've watched a lot of them, a lot of their games, a lot of their workouts; just really try to learn" from them, he said.

THE MOUTHWATCH

"THAT'S BS IN MY EYES. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY PLAYER WHO ISN'T ENJOYING THIS. THE WORD WILL GET OUT, AND THE NEXT OLYMPICS WILL HAVE A LOT MORE GUYS."

—**Thomas Pieters**, on fellow golfers who said they skipped the Olympics because of Zika concerns. Pieters attended the University of Illinois and is representing Belgium in Rio.

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HIGH RIDGE YMCA– Friday, August 19, 6–8 p.m.
IRVING PAR YMCA– Friday, August 19, 5–7 p.m.
LAKE VIEW YMCA– Friday, August 12, 6:30–8 p.m.
McCORMICK TRIBUNE YMCA– Friday, August 19, 6–9 p.m.
RAUNER FAMILY YMCA– Saturday, August 13, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
SOUTH CHICAGO YMCA– Thursday, August 18, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
SOUTH SIDE YMCA– Wednesday, August 17, 5–7 p.m.
WEST COMMUNITIES YMCA– Saturday, August 13, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

eat & drink

Better than bottle service: 10 large-format cocktails to share

SIZE *DOES* MATTER

GREY GARDEN APOTHECARY SERVICE ($300) AT CINDY'S

12 S. Michigan Ave. 312-792-3502

67 ounces | serves 20 cocktails

As the Loop rooftop's menu so eloquently puts it, elixirs from the bar are "the original pharmacy," and a large dose of this floral concoction combining vodka, white sweet vermouth, creme de violette liqueur, Rare Tea Cellar's Emperor's Jasmine Pearls tea and lemon juice is the ultimate cure-all, to say the least.

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

Let's face it. Chicago isn't a bottle service town in the same way as Las Vegas or L.A. But our craft cocktail bars spit some serious game, and our palate expectations exceed what a $300 fifth of vodka can deliver. We'll take a cognac-packed punch bowl over that pricey bottle and cranberry juice any day. Requiring the same expertise as your favorite by-the-glass craft beverages, these large-format cocktails deliver in a big, budget-friendly way (no, really, we did the math). Grab your friends and allow us to guide you to 10 bars with shareable cocktails that beat out boring bottle service any day.

HSCHROERING@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @OHITSHEATHER

DIVER DOWN ($125) AT THREE DOTS AND A DASH

435 N. Clark St. 312-610-4220

25 ounces | serves 5–6 cocktails

We can't all be deep-sea divers, but everyone is welcome to get shipwrecked on this potent potion of several rums, Campari, house-made allspice syrup, lime juice, orgeat syrup (almond, rose water and orange water) and fresh strawberries.

FOGCUTTER ($50) AT LOST LAKE

3154 W. Diversey Ave. 773-961-7475

48 ounces | serves 4 cocktails

We haven't the foggiest idea what the night turned into after downing this tiki tonic of gin, rum, cognac, sherry, lime juice, orgeat, orange liqueur and angostura bitters.

BARTENDER'S WHIM ($75) AT DRUMBAR

201 E. Delaware Place 312-933-4805

34 ounces | serves 8 cocktails

Pick your poison with this group deal at the Gold Coast rooftop bar. After inquiring about preferred spirits and flavors, beverage director Whitney Morrow and her team brew a boozy pick-me-up served in a copper pineapple vessel.

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

BURNING BIRD ($66) AT THE LADIES' ROOM

2957 W. Diversey Ave. 773-661-9170

24 ounces | serves 4 cocktails
Take what you know about classic tiki drinks and light it on fire—literally. Like cotton candy for pyromaniacs, this play on a jungle bird with bitter, charred flavors is a mix of pineapple rum, Aperol, burnt sugar syrup, CH Distillery amaro and calamansi juice (like a sour orange) served with a flaming orange peel.

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

TABLESIDE CHAMPAGNE PUNCH SERVICE ($225) AT PUNCH HOUSE

1227 W. 18th St. 312-526-3851

52 ounces | serves 6 cocktails
This ain't your average grog, sailors. Pilsen's maritime-inspired bar in the basement of Dusek's mixes cognac, orange liqueur, rum, black tea, lemon juice and angostura bitters topped with an entire bottle of champagne.

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

PROHIBITION POMEGRANATE PUNCH ($55–$75) AT UPSTAIRS AT THE GWEN

521 N. Rush St. 312-645-1500

20–30 ounces | serves 4–6 cocktails
Despite its name, there's no rotgut moonshine in this bathtub punch. Instead, the River North rooftop spot serves a pleasant patio sipper of pomegranate liqueur, raspberry vodka, orange liqueur and lime juice garnished with sliced citrus fruit served in a fish bowl with fruit zest-infused ice.

DAISY DUKES ($48) AT STREETERVILLE SOCIAL

455 N. Park Drive 312-840-6600

25 ounces | serves 4 cocktails
Denim booty shorts aren't required to delight in this refreshing summer-ready mix of vodka, yellow Chartreuse, lemon juice and housemade watermelon cordial at the Streeterville hotel rooftop bar.

SUMMERHOUSE CIGAR ($80) AT RAISED

1 W. Wacker Drive 312-795-3444

25 ounces | serves 6 cocktails
Forget your name. It's Gatsby now with this Loop rooftop's enchanting sip made with whiskey, amaretto, coffee and vanilla liqueurs and Burlesque Bitters, a sweet and spicy mix of hibiscus, acai berry and long pepper.

DRAFT COCKTAILS ($28) AT THE REVEL ROOM

1566 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1600

32 ounces | serves 4 cocktails
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2016 NISSAN ALTIMA, MOCHA, STK. #YPJ4727 ..... ~~$15,991**~~	2015 BUICK LACROSSE, GRAY, STK. #YPJ4729 ..... ~~$17,991**~~	2014 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L, STK. #YPJ4688 ..... ~~$27,491**~~

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LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

the essentials

UPPING YOUR CHICAGO RESTAURANT CRED ONE BITE AT A TIME

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

"No cell phone use inside lounge. Proper attire requested. Please, no baseball hats. Sorry, no reservations. ... No O-bombs. No Jager-bombs. No bombs of any kind. No Budweiser. No light beer. No Grey Goose. No cosmopolitans. And finally, please do not bring anyone to The Violet Hour that you wouldn't bring to your mother's house for Sunday dinner."

These are most of the house rules at The Violet Hour, the Wicker Park bar behind the muraled hidden door on Damen Avenue that for the past nine years has had a line outside on any given night. While the rules seem strict, don't be fooled; they're not there to keep people out. They're in place to create an experience that anyone with a nice pair of shoes can have at Chicago's first craft cocktail mecca.

Toby Maloney, partner and head mixologist at The Violet Hour, isn't fond of the "cocktail mecca" title, "but there are bars that you travel to to drink the drinks," he said. He humbly agrees that The Violet Hour is just that, and its role in igniting Chicago's present cocktail scene is an even greater achievement.

When it opened in July 2007, the New York-style cocktail bar was meant to serve as a retreat from the Wicker Park menagerie. While Nacional 27 and The Matchbox were known for serving great drinks, cocktails weren't the bar scene's biggest draw at the time. "Chicago was known as the 16-ounce martini ground zero," Maloney said. Would Chicagoans be happy with smaller drinks that lacked both Ketel One and cranberry juice? A RedEye review of the bar from August 2007 asked it better: "Are amazing cocktails and an air of New York sensibility enough to sustain a lounge in our Midwestern metropolis?"

At the time, there was nothing like The Violet Hour in Chicago, but if anyone could pull it off, it was Maloney, with eight years of experience at Milk & Honey and Pegu Club, two game-changers in the New York bar industry. Partner Terry Alexander (The Publican, Big Star, Nico Osteria) wanted to introduce Chicago to New York's traditionalist style with a passion for the classics, restrained technique and fine-tuned details,

THE ESSENTIALS
The Violet Hour
1520 N. Damen Ave.
773-252-1500

LOOKS LIKE
A Victorian ballroom behind a secret door

SOUNDS LIKE
Soft conversations and indie pop

SMELLS LIKE
Citrus peels and fresh herbs

such as hand-chipped ice and housemade bitters and syrups.

Today, housemade syrups and a good old fashioned are the expectation at craft cocktail bars, but nine years ago, The Violet Hour was a vanguard that not everyone understood. "[People] hated us because they couldn't get in wearing flip-flops or their drinks took longer than five or 10 minutes or we didn't have Grey Goose." Maloney said. "It was just not thought of that a bar could curate your experience so much."

In the beginning, the goal was to create a calm and refined atmosphere where conversation was key. "At capacity" meant that every seat was taken rather than the entire room being filled. Not much has changed about The Violet Hour. Inside it still looks the same, like an opulent salon with cornflower-blue walls and white crown molding lowly lit by crystal chandeliers. Plush blue-gray floor-to-ceiling curtains separate three rooms, which are occupied by high-backed blue leather chairs arranged around small white stool-sized tables illuminated by tiny candles. It's still the place to go for fine conversation and some of the best, most balanced craft cocktails in Chicago. Every drink is a total sensory experience, from aromatic bitters to hand-chipped ice clinking in the glass.

At the heart of every thoughtful, creative cocktail is a greater understanding of the classics. "Once you've made 10,000 sours and martinis and manhattans and old fashioneds and negronis, the plug-and-play becomes really very typical at this point," Maloney said. Take the Blue Ridge Manhattan ($12), for instance, a Violet Hour original. In a scotch-rinsed glass, the cocktail combines rye whiskey and vermouth topped with a few dashes of hickory-infused peach bitters. Maloney said he was craving a pulled-pork sandwich when he came up with the cocktail and wanted to capture that unique flavor combination. Nine years later, it's still a Violet Hour staple.

The service at the bar is impeccable. The bartenders truly take care of guests, spending

Blue Ridge Manhattan

time getting to know their palates so they can offer up just the right drink. "It's my job," manager Benjamin Smith said during my most recent visit before he opened the menu to help us select our second round. It's a welcome alternative to the typical "I'll come back" that I'm often met with in the face of indecision.

On the industry side, The Violet Hour is unsurprisingly viewed as a finishing school for all-star cocktailing. Originals who opened the bar include Henry Prendergast, who went on to open the now-defunct Analogue; Blackbird bar manager Kyle Davidson; and Nandini Khaund, who opened Cindy's rooftop bar at the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel. Maloney attributes a lot of The Violet Hour's success to people in the bar and restaurant industry. "They got it immediately," he said, and word of mouth took off from there.

There's a lot of pressure that comes with unveiling something new to a city deeply rooted in its ways. "Overall, it was one of the hardest but most gratifying things I've ever done and probably will ever do," Maloney said. So were amazing cocktails and an air of New York sensibility enough to sustain a lounge in a Midwestern metropolis? Chicago must have been thirsty.

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fests

2007 Bud Billiken Parade
TRIBUNE FILE

Fest Planner Aug. 12-14

BUD BILLIKEN PARADE, REGGAE FEST AND MORE

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

Don't mess with the brass or you'll get the horns—and a whole lot of them at the Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic on Saturday. It's all music and culture the rest of the weekend with five more fests. Jam out at Retro on Roscoe, Northalsted Market Days and Reggae Fest, and celebrate Japanese and Cuban cultures at Ginza Holiday Festival and Festival Cubano. @OHITSHEATHER | HSCHROERING@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

FEST FOCUS =MUSIC =FOOD =DRINKS =ARTS =CULTURE

Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic

When: Parade steps off at 9 a.m. Saturday, picnic to follow
Where: Parade route: Martin Luther King Drive from Oakwood Boulevard to 51st Street, Ellsworth Drive (through Washington Park) to 55th Street. Picnic: Washington Park
How much: Free
The skinny: Uplifting underprivileged Chicago youth since 1929, the Washington Park parade is the second largest in the nation. Catch high school marching bands, floats, drill teams, cheerleaders, dancers and more, followed by a picnic with food vendors and giveaways.

Retro on Roscoe
CHUANDO VO FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE

Retro on Roscoe

When: 5-10 p.m. Friday and noon-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Where: Roscoe Street and Damen Avenue
How much: $10 suggested donation
The skinny: For those looking for a blast from the past, this flashback-filled street fest in its 20th year is where it's at. Along with antique vendors and a car and motorcycle show featuring about 50 vintage rides, catch cover bands on three stages, including Too White Crew (8 p.m. Friday, East Stage), Cowboy Jukebox (4 p.m. Saturday, East Stage) and American English (8 p.m. Sunday, Center Stage).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH

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COVER GURL
7:00 - 8:30PM

HI INFIDELITY 9:00 - 11:00PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH

SILVER CREEK BAND
12:00 - 1:00PM

SOAP STONE
1:30 - 2:30PM

THE RELICS
3:00 - 4:30PM

STROKER RED
5:00 - 6:30PM

TIFFANY
7:00 - 8:30PM

7TH HEAVEN
9:00 - 11:00PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH

THE NEVERLY BROTHERS • 12:00 - 2:00PM
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THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
4:30 - 6:00PM

FOOD - CARNIVAL - LIVE MUSIC
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DeKalb Corn Fest

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Ginza Holiday Festival

Northalsted Market Days

When: 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Where: Halsted Street between Belmont Avenue and Addison Street
How much: $10 suggested donation
The skinny: The LGBT street fest in Boystown celebrates 35 years this weekend with art, food and music on four stages. Catch big-name acts such as Sir the Baptist (8:30 p.m. Saturday, Addison Stage) and RJD2 (5 p.m Sunday, Belmont Stage) and cover bands such as Abba Salute (4:15 p.m. Saturday, Belmont Stage) and Boy Band Review (9 p.m. Sunday, Belmont Stage).

Ginza Holiday Festival

When: 5:30–9 p.m. Friday, 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Saturday and 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday
Where: Midwest Buddhist Temple (435 W. Menomonee St.)
How much: $6-$7 suggested donation. $12 admission fee after 7 p.m. Saturday. $15 three-day admission at the gate
The skinny: The annual festival of Japanese culture celebrates 61 years with an array of traditional food and entertainment. Feast on udon noodles, chicken teriyaki and sushi while watching performances by Taiko drummers and a folk dance troupe, martial arts demonstrations and folk-blues artist Yoko Noge and her band (8 p.m. Saturday). Shop merchants with ceramics, origami, jewelry and other giftable goods. Plus, don't miss beautiful bonsai trees and Ikebana flower arranging inside the temple.

Reggae Fest

When: Noon–10 p.m. Saturday
Where: Addams/Medill Park (1301 W. 14th St.)
How much: General admission: $45. Tickets: **reggaefestchicago.com**
The skinny: "One day, one love" is the theme of this new fest celebrating reggae and similar genres including ska, reggaeton, roots reggae and world music. Headliners include Toots and the Maytals (8:45 p.m. North Stage), Lee "Scratch" Perry (8 p.m. South Stage), Iration (7 p.m. North Stage) and Hepcat (6:15 p.m. South Stage). Along with a merchant market with Caribbean style clothes, jewelry and home goods, chow down on food from 10 restaurants including Jerk, Modern Jamaican Grill, Chicago Lunchbox food truck and more.

Festival Cubano

When: 4–10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Where: Riis Park (6100 W. Fullerton Ave.)
How much: General admission: $5 Friday, $10 Saturday and Sunday. Three-day passes: $20. Tickets: **thecubanfestival.com**
The skinny: Billed as one of the largest Cuban and Latino festivals in the nation, this weekend-long event in its seventh year brings live entertainment and more. Along with a classic car show, carnival rides and cigar rolling, catch headliners on the main stage, including Juan Esteban on Friday (9 p.m.), Elvis Crespo on Saturday (7 p.m.) and India, the Princess of Salsa, on Sunday (8:30 p.m.). Plus, don't miss getting a slice of the 90-foot long Cuban sandwich from 90 Miles Cuban Cafe.

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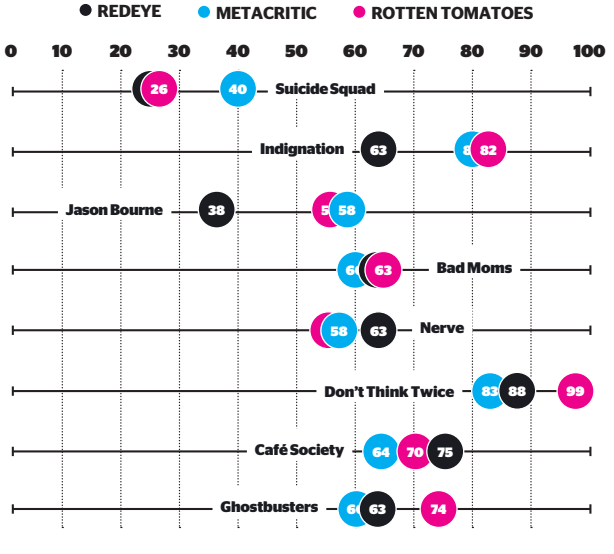
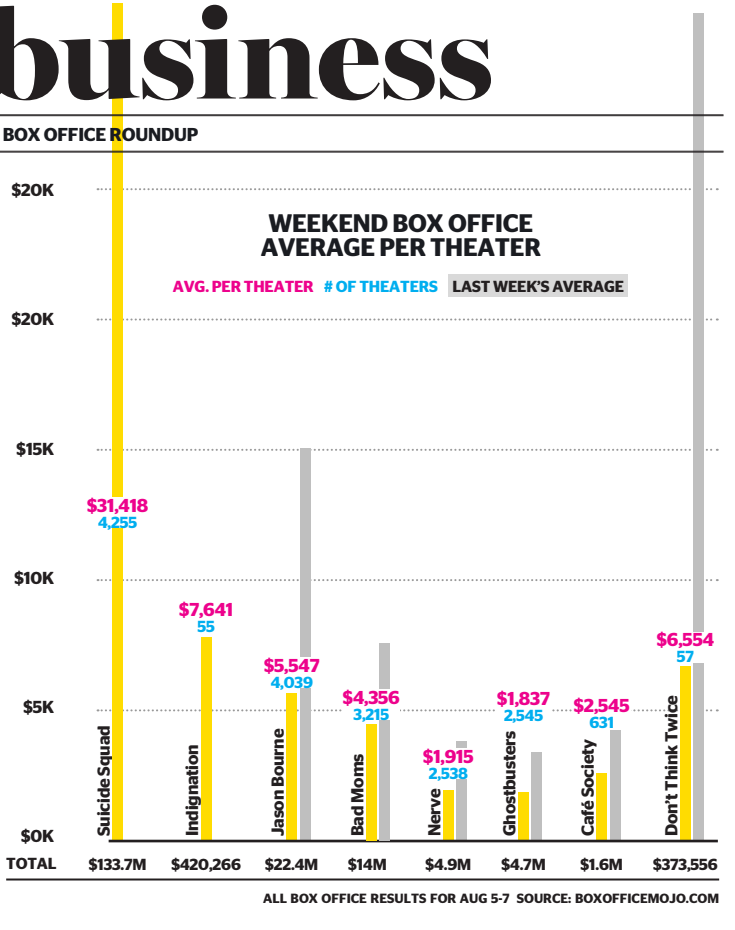
A WEEKEND BOX OFFICE ROUNDUP

With a new batch of movies opening, you may be digging through your brain to remember what else came out recently. Here's a look back at what RedEye thought about some of the movies, an idea of how critical aggregators rate them and how much money each brought in last weekend. —REDEYE

CRITIC RATINGS



WEEKEND BOX OFFICE AVERAGE PER THEATER



ALL BOX OFFICE RESULTS FOR AUG 5-7 SOURCE: BOXOFFICEMOJO.COM

OPENING THIS WEEK

SAUSAGE PARTY *R*

★★½☆

Though "Sausage Party" is often lazily outrageous, those who enjoy the Seth Rogen/Evan Goldberg humor ("Superbad," "This is the End") will undoubtedly be laughing for much of it, and even those with more sophisticated senses of humor will find a few things to chuckle about. —LAUREN CHVAL, REDEYE

FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS *PG-13*

★☆☆☆

It's a film that dares you to give it a bad review, simply so it can turn around and call you a bully who picks on the people who try. It invites you to giggle at Florence's horrible singing and then promptly scolds you for laughing, creating a contradictory double standard that goes unreconciled—to laugh or not to laugh at Florence's tortured caterwauling? —KATIE WALSH, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HELL OR HIGH WATER *R*

★★★½

It's a Western old-fashioned enough to risk cliches about honorably lawless men. It's also modern enough to know these folks' time and place cannot last forever, and that the movie itself is already a thing, a very entertaining thing, of the recent past. What the movie has, above all, is a dramatic line, clean and straight. In its faces, its scenery and its plain satisfactions it makes us feel like we've been somewhere, when we get to the end of that line. —MICHAEL PHILLIPS, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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LAST CHANCE

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0% FOR 72 MONTHS*

FOR EXAMPLE:

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NOW: $11,009*
STOCK# 15031

NEW 2016 Ford Focus
WAS: $19,195
NOW: $12,980*
STOCK# 15345

NEW 2016 Ford Escape
WAS: $23,995
NOW: $17,885*
STOCK# 53388

NEW 2017 Ford Fusion
WAS: $22,995
NOW: $18,998*
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NEW 2015 Ford F-150
Super Crew 4x4 Lariat
STOCK# 52187

YOUR CHOICE: $100 DOWN AND ONLY $159 PER MONTH**

2015 FORD FIESTA

2015 NISSAN VERSA

2015 CHEVY SPARK

SUMMER FUN***

2014 MITSUBISHI LANCER GT
BLACK-LEATHER-LOADED
15109A, $15,977

2014 HONDA CIVIC SI
ORANGE-ROOF-MUST SEE-RARE
15359A, $18,977

2011 FORD MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE
BLUE-V8
52600B, $19,977

2015 FORD MUSTANG
MAGNETIC METALLIC-ECO BOOST-MUST SEE
P19602, $20,977

2015 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
HOT ORANGE-AUTO
XP19840, $23,977

2014 CHEVY CAMARO SS
RED-LOADED-V8
53385B, $26,977

AUGUST SPECIALS -YOUR CHOICE

$100 DOWN AND ONLY $139 PER MONTH****

2012 FORD FUSION
SILVER
52443A

2012 CHRYSLER 200 LX
GRAY
15345A

2013 FORD FOCUS
RED
15095A

2013 FORD FIESTA
GRAY
P19817A

2014 CHEVY SPARK
BLUE
14339A

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UNBEATABLE DEALS***

2002 FORD FOCUS
GRAY-AUTO-4 DOOR-ROOF
P19655A, $2,977

2003 KIA SPECTRA LS
WHITE-AUTO
P19871, $3,977

2009 PONTIAC G6
RED-4 DOOR-POWER
53272A, $2,977

1990 CHEVY CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE
RED-AUTO-LEATHER
P19672A, $6,977

2009 HONDA CIVIC
BLUE-AUTO-4 DOOR
P19868, $6,977

2005 INFINITI G35
SILVER-2 DOOR-ROOF-LEATHER
52825A, $8,977

PHOTOS FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT REFLECT ACTUAL VEHICLE

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**$100.00 DOWN +TAX + L&T+ $169.27 DOC FEE — WITH QUALIFIED CREDIT — 75 MONTHS AT 2.5% — SELLING PRICE $10977.00 — 2015 FIESTA XP19696 — 2015 VERSA XP19805 — 2015 SPARK—XP19668
***ALL PRE-OWNED ARE PLUS TAX, L&T, $169.27 DOC FEE ****SALE PRICE $9300.00 + $100.00 DOWN +TAX + $169.27 DOC FEE + L&T WITH APPROVED CREDIT 72 MONTHS AT 2.9%

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9				4				
6				1		3	7	
		8	5	3				4
		9			4			
	4			7			1	
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				5				9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

7	1	9	4	6	2	8	5	3
8	6	4	9	5	3	7	2	1
5	2	3	8	1	7	4	9	6
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9	3	8	6	7	5	1	4	2
3	7	1	5	9	8	2	6	4
4	9	5	7	2	6	3	1	8
6	8	2	3	4	1	5	7	9

THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

L	B	S			G	L	A	D	E		A	R	T	S
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O	V	E	R		G	E	R	M	Y		C	L	A	W
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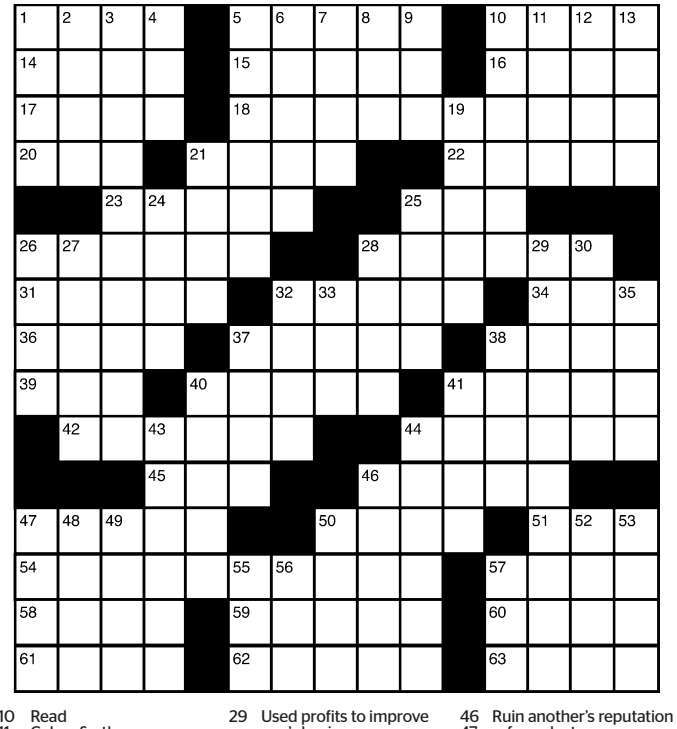

ACROSS
1 Chicken's pen
5 Thespian
10 Lima's nation
14 Rowers' needs
15 Lying flat
16 12/24 & 12/31
17 Bangkok native
18 Reword
20 Source of light
21 Grassy plot
22 Removes from office
23 Barbecue
25 "He's got the whole world in __ hands..."
26 Pig's cry
28 Abandon
31 External
32 Lopsided
34 Poe's initials
36 Table extender
37 Was nosy
38 Be in accord; harmonize
39 Final bill
40 Liver spreads
41 Paddled boat
42 Child's writing assignments
44 Zeal
45 Koch & Ames
46 Good judgment
47 More peculiar
50 Leave out
51 Adder's result
54 Wide paths for strolling along beaches
57 "__ Small World"
58 Scrabble piece
59 Root beer __; ice cream treat
60 Comfy rooms
61 Ran fast
62 King or Bird
63 Pierre's state: abbr.

DOWN
1 Rollaway beds
2 Hawaiian island
3 Reddish apes
4 Fraternity letter
5 Horrify
6 Move very slowly, as traffic
7 __ up; dejected
8 "Cat __ Hot Tin Roof"
9 Pelosi's title: abbr.
10 Read
11 Gabor & others
12 Take a break
13 Does drugs
19 Lift with effort
21 Fib teller
24 Rocky ridge at the sea's edge
25 __ up; robbed at gunpoint
26 Convinced
27 People lined up
28 Perishes
29 Used profits to improve one's business
30 Forbidden thing
32 __ and crafts
33 Even score
35 One's equal
37 __ for; buys
38 Jolts; unsettles
40 Chaplain's title
41 Copper coin
43 Appeared
44 Hot-blooded
46 Ruin another's reputation
47 __ for; selects
48 Faucet problem
49 Ford's 1976 running mate
50 Smell
52 Midshipmen's school: abbr.
53 Disguise
55 Broncos' org.
56 Apple pie __ mode
57 Driver's lic. and Soc. Sec. card

TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

FRIDAY
» Model **Cara Delevingne**, 24
» Actor **Casey Affleck**, 41
» Author **Ann M. Martin**, 61

SATURDAY
» Actor **Sebastian Stan**, 34
» Comedian **Steve Higgins**, 53
» Actor **Danny Bonaduce**, 57

SUNDAY
» Actress **Mila Kunis**, 33
» Actress **Halle Berry**, 50
» Actor **Steve Martin**, 71

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red hot

Brad Pitt in 'World War Z'

WHAT COMES AFTER Z?

"Fight Club" and "Seven" director David Fincher is reportedly in talks to direct a sequel to the 2013 Brad Pitt-fronted zombie thriller "World War Z," according to **thr.com**. A second installment was originally set to be directed by J.A. Bayona, but he dropped out recently. So now Pitt, who worked with Fincher on "Fight Club" and other films, has reportedly had meetings alongside Paramount and Skydance studios to urge the director to take the helm. Sequels galore!

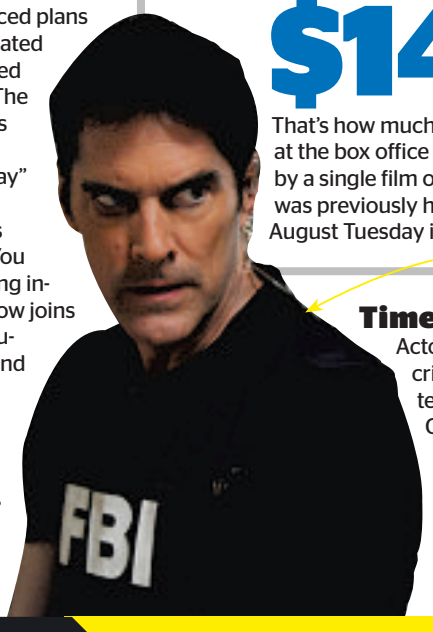
Nice rhyme

The CW has announced plans to debut a new animated superhero show called "Freedom Fighters: The Ray," which will focus on a gay superhero named Raymond "Ray" Terrill, according to **vulture.com**. What's Ray's superpower? You guessed it—something involving light. The show joins a host of other CW superhero programs, and like fellow animated superhero series "Vixen," it will be shown on the network's Seed website, which streams certain shows for free.

THE DIGIT

$14.27M

That's how much the critically panned Warner Bros. film "Suicide Squad" took in at the box office on Tuesday, setting a record for the most money ever grossed by a single film on a Tuesday in August, according to **deadline.com**. That record was previously held by "Guardians of the Galaxy," which earned $11.9 million on an August Tuesday in 2014.



Time out

Actor **Thomas Gibson** has been suspended from working on the crime drama "Criminal Minds" after reportedly getting into an altercation with a writer-producer on set, according to **variety.com**. Gibson, who has played FBI agent Aaron Hotchner on the CBS show since its premiere in September 2005, will be suspended for one or two episodes in the upcoming twelfth season. Gibson later said in a statement that the altercation was due to "creative differences on the set and a disagreement" and that he "regret[s] that it occurred."

THE QUOTE

"I met [Goldie Hawn] on an airplane a couple of years ago and told her there's a movie I really want to make with her. And she was very nice. 'OK, honey.' She probably thought I was a psycho. 'OK, crazy person.' Then I'd meet her at different things, saying, 'We're making this movie together,' and I think, eventually, some people got in her ear and told her I wasn't crazy, that I make things."

—**Amy Schumer**, to the L.A. Times, on convincing Goldie Hawn to star alongside her in a yet-to-be-titled film due out in May 2017. Hawn plays Schumer's mother in the movie, which is about the duo getting lost in South America.

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